

Night Golf at the Hong Kong Golf and Tennis Academy

Saturday 19th Jan 2019



A new way to play golf!

After being in existence for over two years, the HKGTA were becoming rather frustrated with no-one in Hong Kong knowing who they are and people calling up asking if they can book their driving range. So in an attempt to spread the word, they kindly invited the Golf Society to come out to their facility and check it out.

Helped no doubt by the fact that they offered the whole experience for free (including use of the range, tour of the facility, slap-up dinner, and 12 holes of night golf), we rapidly assembled a group of 28 enthusiastic members to join the trip.

Given the generosity of the HKGTA, the Golf Society decided that we would provide transport for free, so we piled into a bus outside the Club, and set off at 4pm on a Saturday afternoon. The trip was reasonably short (luckily not near a rush hour) and we were welcomed at the Academy. After a short tour of their impressive facility, we were then shown to their splendid driving range which has about 40 bays on two levels, and hit balls onto their multiple artificial greens for about half an hour. They have those splendid little machines which tee up all your balls for you, for those who find bending over to tee them up yourself too stressful (eg me!) We then headed off to one of their numerous food outlets to enjoy a very pleasant dinner and chat with their staff.

After that, we were ushered back to the golf area where the balls had all been cleared from the 6 artificial greens, and the flagsticks had all been festooned with fairy lights. We were divided into 7 teams of 4, and had a shotgun start on the 6 holes. As there were 7 teams, this meant one team had to sit out initially, which was no hardship as they had created a bar with wine and beers next to the first tee! Once everyone was ready to go, they then killed the floodlights around the range, and the whole place was plunged into near total darkness. It was just possible to make ones way between shots thanks to the light coming from the driving



Night Golf Balls

range bays but in the dark the flagsticks with their colourful lights really stood out. We were given dull, plain looking balls with no markings, but once they were hit, they lit up in spectacular shades of red, blue and green which made them look impressive as they soared across the golf area towards the various targets.

One ball looked particularly impressive as it sailed onto the green, and accompanied by lots of encouraging yells, ooohs and aahs, dropped into the hole for a hole-in-one!

After the 2 laps were completed, we retired to the bar for another drink, chat, and prize-giving. Again HKGTA were very generous providing attractive prizes for the best player and the best team, as well as the "keenest" player and team (ie the most incompetent!). In addition Rosemary Hsu who had scored the hole-in-one, was also given a lovely prize which they had clearly rapidly assembled! It just remained to thank everyone at HKGTA for their efforts putting on this inaugural night golf session, and for their generosity in laying it all on for free, before jumping back on the bus for our return to the Club.



Winning team: Jonny Brock, Gayble Tsang, Rosemary Hsu and Kenneth Hsu

Jukka teeing off



Jonathan Li teeing off to the short 16th par 4



Wednesday 23rd Jan 2019

Our second January outing was to Kau Sai Chau North allowing some exercise before the excesses of Chinese New Year. As KSC North is a hilly walking course that meant plenty exercise, although with the temperature down around 12 degrees a few hills were probably appreciated to get the blood moving. With JP Cuvelier needed move his office and a team match two days later several regular players

were absent so the field was down to seven players enjoying the gentle sunshine which broke out around noon.

The first to tee off were **Harshit Anand, Jukka Hakli** and **Jonathan Li**. Two holes worth mentioning were holes 3 and 15. Jonathan made a nice birdie on the 3rd, a very challenging 160 yard par three with a forced carry of 150 yards to the front fringe. Jonathan hit his 5 iron to the left of the green and taking advantage of the slope, rolled down to 5 feet and makes the putt for birdie. On 15, after hitting his approach just over the green, Jonathan selected his sand wedge and hit it right in the hole for another birdie, going on to win second place with 29 stableford points. Jukka Hakli in the same group scored 32 points to claim the victory. Shame he didn't bring that form to the FCC match two days later on the same course!

The second group to tee off were **John Dainton, Dori Dainton, Helen Hayward** and **David Lindsay**. Helen won the 2nd shot nearest to the pin on hole 15 and I would say this is one of the most dramatic pars. Helen had a great approach shot within 10 feet of the hole however then mishit the putt. The ball caught the downslope and rolled off the green. Magical moments happened.... she chipped it in to save par! 3 bad shots and 1 good shot, you can still make a par.

Then we all went back to the Club for refreshment and everyone agreed it had been a most enjoyable outing.

Results Summary

Nearest to the pin	
Hole 3	Jonathan Li
Hole 7	Helen Hayward
Hole 14	Helen Hayward
2nd shot NTP	Helen Hayward
Longest Drive Male	John Dainton
1st place	Jukka Hakli
2nd place	Jonathan Li
3rd place	Helen Hayward

That's all for this outing.

Happy Golfing.

■ **Ted Li, Golf event organiser**

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Match vs FCC Golf Society

Friday 25th Jan 2019

Kau Sai Chau North at its magnificent best – 1st hole on the left and the ludicrously long 9th on the right

The Golf Society's first match of the 2019 season was against the FCC, a very convivial bunch of opponents. Historically we have done well in this fixture with one tie and 4 subsequent wins.

To try to even things up **Terry Wright** our Captain decided to boost handicaps to 90% of standard ones which is very generous to the higher handicapping team in the four ball better ball format we play. He then promptly headed off to New Zealand and left me in charge with the unenviable task of trying to maintain our unbeaten record of five years.

On arrival at Kau Sai Chau, we found the course bathed in perfect sunshine and the faintest of breezes drifting across the course. No sign of the recent typhoon, except for the pleasure boat which is still semi-embedded in the parking facility at Sai Kung pier!

After the usual good value breakfast and a quick warm up with a bucket of balls, we proceeded to the first tee to do battle. We were led off by **Don Roberts** (the HK Club Golf Convenor) and **Anatole Le** who had flown in from Singapore for the fixture. Next up were myself and **Jukka Hakli** who is normally a very strong match competitor so I assumed that I would just stroll around, buy a few beers and let him take care of the golf. Unfortunately he was having one of his less sharp days, and once that became obvious (and we fell 1 down after 7 holes) I decided I had better roll the old sleeves up and contribute. An Eagle 3 on the long par 5 8th followed by a near hole-in-one on the treacherous par 3 13th (for a tap in birdie) represented my contribution, at which point I went back to my beers and let Jukka get on with it. Luckily he had just enough in the tank to get us over the line 1 up after our opponents missed a 20 inch putt on the last. A bit close for comfort!



An unwelcome visitor on the course (which had been removed before our match)

A relieved looking Dallas retrieving the Cup from Russ Julseth to safely return to Captain Terry!



It turned out that we won the first 4 matches, so as there were only 7 matches it was not too nail-biting. The final score was 5-2 in favour of the Club, however no fewer than 5 of the 7 matches went to the final hole and 2 were tied so the score was distinctly flattering.

The match was followed by a pleasant lunch at the Kau Sai Chau restaurant washed down with a few ales, and numerous tales of what could have been.

Thanks to Terry Wright for arranging all the handicaps and lining up our team, to **Russ Julseth** who captained the FCC team, to all the players for taking the time to compete in the fixture, and to Kau Sai Chau for a North course which was in very good condition and to their ever helpful staff.

We look forward to the 2020 edition of this fixture where Terry is threatening to play off 100% handicaps which may prove a bridge too far.

Match results:

Roberts and Li	vs	Nash and Rowlinson	HKFC 1 Up
Reid and Hakli	vs	Cornfield and Lynch	HKFC 1 Up
Brock and Suttie	vs	Jones G and Jones N	HKFC 3 and 2
Petersen and Hayward	vs	Wong and Cho	HKFC 3 and 2
Wood and Ng	vs	Tinworth and Au	All square
Banks and Marsden	vs	Feng and Zheng	FCC 1 Up
Bonnier and Collins	vs	Choi and Julseth	All square